



## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO Department of Agriculture/Masurement Standards

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER INFESTATION DETECTED IN SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**San Luis Obispo, CA, September 30, 2010--** The detection of an adult Glassy-winged sharpshooter in an insect trap placed in a residential area in the southeastern part of the city of San Luis Obispo has prompted a high density trapping delimitation and visual survey of the entire neighborhood. The insect traps are part of the County Agricultural Commissioner's ongoing pest detection program designed to find Glassy-winged sharpshooters, an unwanted insect pest capable of transmitting *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterium that causes Pierce's Disease and other plant diseases. Pierce's Disease is a lethal disease to grape plants.

Sticky, bright yellow insect traps have been placed on outdoor plants to quickly detect additional sharpshooters and to delineate the extent of the range of this pest. A door to door visual survey of 522 properties by staff from the Agricultural Commissioner's office of host landscape plants and large greenbelt areas resulted in a total of four live adults and numerous suspected Glassy-winged sharpshooters egg masses found near the original trapped yard. The multiple finds trigger a local quarantine.

"My staff is working proactively and collaboratively with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the homeowners and neighboring commercial grape growers to contain this pest and minimize the impact to local agriculture as much as possible" said Bob Lilley, County Agricultural Commissioner. "So far, this pest is isolated to a residential area and has not been found in commercial vineyards", continued Lilley.

Pesticide treatments of outdoor landscape plants are planned to take place beginning February, 2011 to coincide with the active feeding phase of the sharpshooter's annual life cycle. Pesticides containing the active ingredient Imidacloprid, found in commonly used pet flea and tick control products and labeled as safe to use in residential landscape settings will be used. Specific information about the pesticide applications and the treatment date and time will be provided to occupants in the treatment area. Occupants will be asked to provide their consent prior to initiation of pesticide treatments. The soil beneath individual host plants (plants that sharpshooters prefer) will be treated using specialized equipment on the ground. Precautions will be in place to avoid exposure to humans and pets.

For more information visit the CDFA website at [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov) or the Ag Commissioner's website at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm).

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